

CLAIMS (with indication of amended or new):

1. (AMENDED) An umbilical comprising:

a plurality of steel tubes helically wound around a core; and

at least one substantially solid steel rod helically wound around said core, said substantially solid steel rod being shaped and sized for absorbing tensile loading on said umbilical,

said at least one steel rod being arranged in a void between said steel tubes;

said umbilical is without an outside armor layer outward of said steel tubes and said at least one steel rod.

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(AMENDED) An umbilical comprising:

a plurality of steel tubes helically wound around a core; and

at least one substantially solid steel rod helically wound around said core, said steel rod being arranged in a void between said steel tubes;

at least one elongated umbilical element selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic tubes, optical fiber cables, and electrical power and communications cables; and

a non-metallic outer sheath surrounding and in direct contact with at least some of said plurality of steel tubes and said elongated umbilical elements;

wherein said at least one steel rod is in direct contact with said non-metallic outer sheath and

wherein said umbilical is without an outside armor layer outward of said steel tubes and said at least one steel rod.

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7. % (AMENDED) A method of increasing the tensile load capacity of an umbilical comprising a plurality of steel tubes helically wound around a core so as to increase the hydrodynamic stability of said umbilical,

said method comprising the step of helically winding at least one substantially solid steel rod in a void between said steel tubes and around said core, said substantially solid steel rod being shaped and sized for absorbing tensile loading on said umbilical; and

not applying an outside armor layer outward of said steel tubes and said at least one steel rod.

(AMENDED) A method of increasing the hydrodynamic stability of an umbilical comprising a plurality of steel tubes helically wound around a core, said method comprising the steps of:

arranging at least one substantially solid steel rod in a void between said steel tubes and helically winding said at least one steel tube around said core;

helically winding around said core at least one elongated umbilical element selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic tubes, optical fiber cables, and electrical power and communications cables;

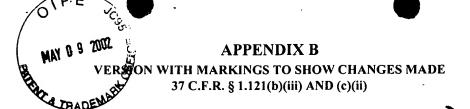
placing a non-metallic outer sheath surrounding and in direct contact with at least some of said plurality of steel tubes and said elongated umbilical elements;

placing said at least one steel rod in direct contact with said non-metallic outer sheath; and

not applying an outside armor layer outward of said steel tubes and said at least one steel rod.

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CLAIMS:

1. (AMENDED) An umbilical comprising:

a plurality of steel tubes helically wound around a core; and

at least one substantially solid steel rod helically wound around said core, said substantially solid steel rod being shaped and sized for absorbing tensile loading on said umbilical,

said <u>at least one</u> steel rod being arranged in a void between said steel tubes; <u>said umbilical is without an outside armor layer outward of said steel tubes and said at</u> <u>least one steel rod.</u>

4. (AMENDED) An umbilical comprising:

a plurality of steel tubes helically wound around a core; and

at least one substantially solid steel rod helically wound around said core, said steel rod being arranged in a void between said steel tubes;

at least one elongated umbilical element selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic tubes, optical fiber cables, and electrical power and communications cables; and

a non-metallic outer sheath surrounding and in direct contact with at least some of said plurality of steel tubes and said elongated umbilical elements;

wherein said at least one steel rod is in direct contact with said non-metallic outer sheath and

wherein said umbilical is without an outside armor layer outward of said steel tubes and said at least one steel rod.

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6. (AMENDED) A method of increasing the tensile load capacity of an umbilical comprising a plurality of steel tubes helically wound around a core so as to increase the hydrodynamic stability of said umbilical,

said method comprising the step of helically winding at least one substantially solid steel rod in a void between said steel tubes and around said core, said substantially solid steel rod being shaped and sized for absorbing tensile loading on said umbilical; and

not applying an outside armor layer outward of said steel tubes and said at least one steel rod.

9. (AMENDED) A method of increasing the hydrodynamic stability of an umbilical comprising a plurality of steel tubes helically wound around a core, said method comprising the steps of:

arranging at least one substantially solid steel rod in a void between said steel tubes and helically winding said at least one steel rod [wound] around said core;

helically winding around said core at least one elongated umbilical element selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic tubes, optical fiber cables, and electrical power and communications cables;

placing a non-metallic outer sheath surrounding and in direct contact with at least some of said plurality of steel tubes and said elongated umbilical elements; [and]

placing said at least one steel rod in direct contact with said non-metallic outer sheath; and

not applying an outside armor layer outward of said steel tubes and said at least one steel rod.

